



SECOND

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

EAST GLOUCESTERSHIRE

United

Sanitary District

FOR THE YEAR 1914.



Cirencester

1915.

THE EAST GLOUCESTERSHIRE UNITED SANITARY DISTRICT

Comprises the following Sanitary Authorities :

RURAL : CIRENCESTER, TETBURY AND
WHEATENHURST.

URBAN : CIRENCESTER AND TETBURY.

Medical Officer of Health :

MARTIN ASHLEY, M.B. LOND., D.P.H.,
CIRENCESTER.

INDEX.

	PAGE
CIRENCESTER URBAN DISTRICT	9
CIRENCESTER RURAL DISTRICT	22
TETBURY URBAN DISTRICT	42
TETBURY RURAL DISTRICT	52
WHEATENHURST RURAL DISTRICT	66

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
EAST GLOUCESTERSHIRE
UNITED DISTRICT JOINT COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honour to present herewith the Second Annual Report of the East Gloucestershire United District. This District is one of those formed by the reconstruction of the South-West Gloucestershire Combined District, and by the addition of other districts.

The areas for which I act as Medical Officer of Health are as follows .—

CIRENCESTER URBAN DISTRICT,
CIRENCESTER RURAL DISTRICT,
TETBURY URBAN DISTRICT,
TETBURY RURAL DISTRICT, AND
WHEATENHURST RURAL DISTRICT.

The Dursley Rural District, although included in the East Gloucestershire United District, is at present served by another Medical Officer of Health.

The work of the Medical Officer of Health in the United District is combined with the Medical Inspection of school children for the same area, and also with that of Medical Superintendent to the Joint Isolation Hospital of the Cirencester Urban and Rural Districts.

AREA AND POPULATION.

The area, population and general characteristics of the United District under consideration are as follows .—

Area	...	...	...	140,425 acres.
Population	...	...	...	32,514 (Census 1911)

The population is mainly agricultural and residential ; the principal towns being Cirencester and Tetbury, both of which, with their respective Urban and Rural areas, are situated on the Cotswold Hills, whilst Wheatenhurst is in the vale of the Severn and on its east-side only is in part situated on a slope of the Cotswolds.

A separate Report for each Urban and Rural District is appended, but remarks on certain subjects apply alike to all, and may now be conveniently considered. These are as follows .—

I.—BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

II.—SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

III.—PREVALENCE OF AND, CONTROL OVER
TUBERCULOSIS.

IV.—ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

V.—INFANT MORTALITY, ETC.

I.—BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS are made for the whole of the County by the Bristol University under arrangements effected by the County Council in 1903, whereby specimens from any case in the Administrative County may be sent by Medical Practitioners for examination, free of cost ; this arrangement covers the ordinary examination of specimens from cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever and Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

II.—SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—These Acts are administered by the County Council through the agency of the Police.

It was not found practicable to ascertain the number of samples taken in the separate districts since the Sale of Food and Drugs Act is administered from so many Police Stations ; but for the County, as a whole, the number of samples examined during the past six or seven years has ranged from 455 in 1908 to 493 in 1914, so that

apparently the number of samples taken in this County is small as compared with many other Counties. 431 samples were obtained informally during the past year, of which 17 were adulterated ; and 62 were taken formally, of which 8 were adulterated.

I have no information as to the nature of the articles examined during 1914, but during the previous year (1913) the samples taken were milk 111, butter 109, margarine 4, tea, coffee, cocoa 25, sugar 40, other foods 42, alcoholic drinks 81, others 54 : of these, 20 samples of milk were found to be adulterated, 1 of butter and 5 of alcoholic drinks.

III.—CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.—In the Annual Report for 1913, an outline was given of the work done under this heading, and those remarks may be supplemented with the following :—

EARLY CASES.—The Joint Committee for Tuberculosis of the County have made arrangements for the use of 65 beds at the Cranham Lodge Sanatorium. This is for the use of early cases.

ADVANCED CASES.—There is no accommodation for intermediate or advanced cases for the Cirencester or Tetbury Districts, but the Stroud Joint Hospital Board have agreed to take such patients from the Wheatenhurst District.

SURGICAL CASES.—Arrangements have been made for the treatment of surgical patients from all parts of the County in the Cheltenham General Hospital and the Cossham Memorial Hospital.

DISPENSARIES.—A dispensary was opened at Cirencester during 1914 for the convenience of patients in the Cirencester and Tetbury districts and also the Northleach

Rural District. Patients from the Wheatenhurst Rural District attend at either the Stroud Dispensary or the Gloucester Dispensary, whichever is more convenient.

NURSES.—The County has now been grouped into nursing districts, for each of which a nurse has been appointed, who is responsible for both the Tuberculosis and the school work in her area. In the Tetbury Union, the nurse also acts as School Attendance Officer. Another Nurse does the work in the Cirencester and Stroud Districts, whilst the Wheatenhurst Rural District is included in the area of a third nurse.

The Joint Committee for Tuberculosis undertake the treatment of all tuberculosis patients, whether insured or non-insured.

As regards the action taken by the Sanitary Authority and Medical Officer of Health: all persons when primarily notified are visited by the Medical Officer of Health, unless after conferring with the Medical Attendant it is thought to be undesirable to do so. The Sanitary Inspector also visits and inspects the house in each case. He also leaves disinfectants, pocket spittoons and leaflets, or takes steps to remedy structural defects. Subsequent visits are made from time to time by the Medical Officer of Health according to circumstances.

If there is reason to suspect that any unrecognised cases of tuberculosis are associated with notified cases of the disease, the persons concerned are advised to attend at the nearest dispensary for examination by the Tuberculosis Medical Officer; or if circumstances make it desirable the Tuberculosis Medical Officer visits the homes of the patients. The Tuberculosis Nurse, who is in touch with the dispensary and its Medical Officer, also visits cases and reports to the Medical Officer of Health as well as to the Tuberculosis Medical Officer.

Sixty shelters are available in the County for the use of tuberculosis patients, their care is under the supervision of the nurses, and the Sanitary Inspectors supervise their removal.

The homes of patients are disinfected from time to time, chiefly on the occasion of removal, but always after death.

Six intimations of tuberculosis in cattle under the Tuberculosis Order of 1913, were received during the year. Five from the Tetbury Rural District and one from Wheatenhurst. The animals were slaughtered and buried under the supervision of the police, and their stalls, as far as practicable, cleansed and disinfected.

IV.—CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES. On receipt of notification of an outbreak of Infectious Disease, the homes of the persons affected are visited by the Medical Officer of Health and inquiries are made. The Sanitary Inspector also visits and investigates the sanitary condition of the houses, details being noted in regard to structural and other defects by recording in the usual housing inspection notebook. Notices are sent to School Teachers when schools are implicated, warning them not to receive scholars from the infected houses until certificates have been received from the Medical Officer of Health that it is safe to do so.

If the case is removed to hospital the house is disinfected by spraying with formalin or by fumigation, and printed instructions are given as to disinfection of infected articles, either by boiling or by exposure to sunlight after spraying. Instructions are also given as to thoroughly cleansing the house by scrubbing, etc., and in many cases by lime-washing also.

When cases are isolated at home disinfectants and printed instructions are supplied.

Further investigations are made by visiting the schools affected and inquiring for the names of children absent through illnesses. In many cases these are visited and the nature of their illnesses inquired into.

When Diphtheria is prevalent swabs are frequently taken of suspected children, and on one occasion during the year all the members of a school were examined by taking swabs from both the noses and throats of each child for bacteriological examination.

Every week a list of children excluded from schools on account of infectious illnesses, whether notifiable or non-notifiable, are sent to the Medical Officer of Health by the Head Teachers, and these illnesses are investigated as often as necessary.

V.—MEANS FOR PREVENTING MORTALITY IN CHILD-BIRTH AND INFANCY. The Midwives' Act, 1902, is administered by the County Council; there is no work undertaken for the welfare of mothers or expectant mothers in any of the East Gloucestershire Districts. The Notification of Births Act, 1907, has not been adopted. The County Authorities have had under consideration the adoption of this Act for the County as a whole, but hitherto have not done so. Such a course would probably include the appointment of nurses to assist in visiting and otherwise performing such work as might be necessary under the Act.

MARTIN ASHLEY.

CIRENCESTER URBAN DISTRICT.

A.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Cirencester Urban District is co-extensive with the parish of Cirencester, and comprises an area of 5,286 acres. The town itself, which is an agricultural and residential centre for the surrounding district, has an estimated population of 7,662.

There is an excellent Cottage Hospital with a Visiting Staff; patients are admitted on obtaining a subscriber's ticket, and they themselves pay a small weekly sum in proportion to their means. Out-patients are also attended and pay a nominal sum. There is a dispensary available by which patients, who hold subscriber's tickets, are entitled to treatment at their own homes, or at the houses of their medical attendants.

B.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the town is derived from a well and borehole situated in Lewis Lane. The supply is constant, there is no filtration, and the water, which is analysed ten times yearly, is always found to be quite pure, although somewhat hard, having usually about 15° of temporary, and 2°—3° of permanent hardness.

The powers of the Cirencester Urban District Council in regard to the water supply are defined by the Cirencester Water Act, 1897. It has been found by an examination of the rate book that on December 31st, 1914, there were 1,851 inhabited houses in Cirencester and 50 that were void. The estimated population at the same date was 7,667, so that the average number of persons per inhabited house was 4.14. Of these inhabited houses, 1,086 received water from the main supply, or an estimated

population of 4496 ; the remaining 765, with an estimated population of 3,167, were dependent on shallow wells for their water. The inhabited houses included the R.A. College, the Hospital and the Workhouse, with estimated populations of 100, 20, and 200 respectively.

The 4,496 persons supplied from the Town Waterworks received an average of 18 gallons per head per day.

On the same basis, it is estimated that 472 persons in Stratton receive the same quantity per head per day from the same source.

The amount of water so supplied includes that used for public purposes.

It would be an advantage if analyses were made more frequently of the water derived from shallow wells when, if found to be polluted, the substitution for the town supply might be proceeded with more rapidly.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Nineteen instances have come under notice where surface water drains have been used for the disposal of slop refuse, and in each case alterations have been required to the method of drainage to prevent pollution of the river Churn. An extension and diversion of the surface water outfall has been effected near the Cricklade Road, to satisfy the requirements of the Thames Conservancy.

The sewers have been regularly inspected and flushed. A stoppage occurred in Park Street during the year, which required much work to satisfactorily remove.

SCAVENGING.

It is probable that a motor vehicle will shortly be in use for street watering and other purposes.

When such is the case, the present refuse tip should be abandoned, since it is open to serious objection from its proximity to the Isolation Hospital.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED
BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

(i.)—COMMON LODGING-HOUSE.

This is an adapted dwelling-house, registered to accommodate 30 persons. The building is very old and requires considerable alterations to make it satisfactory. Light and ventilation are deficient, and the bedrooms are unceiled. The owners have had notice that certain alterations are necessary, and there is every likelihood of structural improvements being effected. The alterations, however, should be considerable.

(ii.)—SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Two notices were required in connection with defective sanitary accommodation during the year.

BAKEHOUSES.

Many of these are not satisfactory, either from unsuitable structural arrangements or from careless habits of the occupiers. Unsatisfactory conditions noticed in connection with these are the following :—Direct connection of bakehouse with living room or proximity to sleeping room ; defective or unsuitable sanitary accommodation ; insanitary gully traps ; defective paving ; unceiled rooms.

In some cases the standard of cleanliness is low, and dirt is allowed to accumulate. Flour stores have been found to be used for drying clothes or other unsuitable purposes, and one baker, who, unfortunately, suffers from malignant disease of the lip, has no assistant. Three of the bakehouses have been partially dealt with during the year, but the present standard is still low in certain cases.

(iii.)—MARINE STORES.

One business deals in rags and bones, but appears to be well conducted.

(iii.)—DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

A portion of the milk sold is retailed by milksellers, who, after bringing it from the farms, deliver to customers twice daily. Usually, a small quantity is left over after each round, and in the case of three milksellers, there is no suitable place, either for storing the milk or washing the cans. There is also considerable room for improvement in the conditions under which milk is sold at one of the milkshops. Some improvement has been effected during the year, but the conditions require further alteration, since at present they are not satisfactory.

FOODS.

The carcase of a sheep which was unfit for food was found in one of the slaughter-houses. It was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 67 workshops on the register and 30 inspections have been made. Two minor matters only called for attention, the one being due to want of cleanliness, and the other to defective sanitary accommodation.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS MADE IN
CONSEQUENCE OF THE WAR.

No changes of staff have been necessary on account of the war, either in the Cirencester Urban or any other of the East Gloucestershire united districts. About 2,000 men have been billeted in the town, partly in private houses and partly in three of the large public buildings. In the latter, urinals have been erected by the military authorities, which have been connected with the sewers, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. The military authorities have also provided pail conveniences for the use of the men, and the contents of these are removed in some cases daily, and in others, twice daily,

by a contractor, who also removes any other refuse as required. Lists of infected houses were furnished to the Police by the Medical Officer of Health before billets were procured, and when fresh notifications of infectious diseases were received, the Medical Officer in charge of the troops was immediately notified.

The cottage at South Cerney, which has been kept furnished for many years, in case of an outbreak of small-pox, would have been available for other infectious diseases, if necessary, but the only two cases that occurred among the troops were isolated at Swindon Hospital, so that the small cottage at South Cerney was not required.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

A new block is now being erected, which will accommodate 12 extra patients. The building is of brick and stone, and will cost about £1,000. There is no reason now why Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria should not both be isolated on the present site without undue risk of cross infection, since it is intended that an assistant nurse shall be engaged in future.

The chief drawback to the present site is the proximity of the town refuse tip, and at times this is very objectionable.

The original suggestion for improved isolation accommodation for the Cirencester Urban and Rural Districts was that, in default of an up-to-date Hospital on a fresh site, an inexpensive wood and iron structure should be provided on the old site, until such time as the whole question might be reconsidered, when, if the wood and iron building were abandoned, the loss would have been little. It was found, however, on investigation, that the chief items of expense, in addition to the building, were the foundations and drainage, so that it was eventually decided to erect a more permanent structure, since the relative cost would not be much greater.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

It has been mentioned in previous Annual Reports that there are a considerable number of working class dwellings in the Cirencester Urban District which are very unsatisfactory. So much so that, although many of them may be renovated, it would appear to be impossible to make them satisfactory houses. There is no doubt that there is a pressing need for better working class houses in this district. Although many are very bad, there are extremely few vacant, and in a considerable number of instances people who work in Cirencester reside in the surrounding villages.

Seventy-four houses were formally inspected during the year and nine representations were made with a view to closing orders. Of these nine, one has been partly demolished voluntarily, one has been converted into a store, and the rest have been dealt with very incompletely or not at all; although assurances have been given that they will be made habitable, there is very little sign of the work being proceeded with at present. None of the other houses inspected and found defective have been dealt with, so that as far as the improvement of Housing conditions is concerned, the past year has not seen much progress. A few additional improvements, however, have been effected as a consequence of nuisances having been found on various occasions.

The question of building more houses has been raised at Council meetings and it seems to be generally recognised that need for such action exists, and, moreover, that some of the worst houses in the town cannot be dealt with until more houses have been built. There is no prospect, however, of further building being undertaken by the council in the immediate future, and under those circumstances more progress might be made in dealing with such houses as it would be practicable to improve.

The following is the summary of work done during the year as supplied by MR. HIBBERT, the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :—

HOUSING :

Plans for new houses approved	...	...	...	21
Houses built	...	...	...	21
Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909, Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910—				
Houses inspected	...	...	...	74
Houses with defects for which notices were necessary	...	...	...	74
Notices served—				
(a) Under Sec. 15 Housing, Town Planning Act, 1909	...	...	...	0
No. remedied	...	...	...	0
(b) Under other Sections of Public Health Acts	...	...	...	9
No. remedied	...	...	...	1
Representations made to District Council	...	...	...	9
Closing Orders	...	...	...	0
Houses made habitable after closing orders	...	...	...	0
Demolition Orders	...	...	...	0
Cases of overcrowding reported	...	...	...	5
Cases abated	...	...	...	5
Houses unfit for habitation	...	...	...	9
Placed in habitable repair without closing orders	...	...	...	0
Houses cleansed on notice	...	...	...	3
Areas inspected : Gloucester Street and Castle Street.				

WATER SUPPLY :

New connections with public supply	...	...	29
Wells closed or use discontinued	...	...	5
Samples taken for examination	...	...	10
Wells cleansed or repaired	...	...	2

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE :

Houses connected with sewers	...	...	13
W.C.'s supplied with flushing cisterns	...	...	18
Drains reconstructed	...	...	8
do. repaired	...	...	14
Privy vaults abolished	...	...	1

NUMBERS INSPECTED OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING :

	No. on Register	No. of Inspections
Common Lodging-houses	1	12
Slaughter-houses...	6	66
Bakehouses	13	36
Dairies, cowsheds and milkshops	16	20
Workshops	54	30
Residences of outworkers	0	0

INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

Cases visited and reported on...	...	...	...	56
Houses disinfected ..	...	...	...	48

GENERAL :

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	19
Nuisances reported to District Council—					
Total	...	...	...	...	47
Swine	...	...	...	...	0
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	45
Preliminary Notices served	...	..	...	...	47
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	2
Summonses taken out	...	...	...	...	0
Convictions	...	...	...	...	0

With reference to the above summary, 'nuisances' which were reported and abated included certain structural improvements to houses, notably to certain of the bakehouses, in which rooms were ceiled, defective sanitary accommodation improved by erecting new w.c.'s, defective paving improved, drainage remodelled (in one case), defective gully traps abolished and other general repairs.

Certain other improvements to houses have been continued which were being dealt with in 1913, and which were mentioned in the Annual Report for that year.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria was prevalent during the year, with an attack rate of 4·0 per 1,000 of the population. The attack rate of Scarlet Fever was 2·3, which is not excessive.

The first case of Diphtheria was notified on May 7th, when three persons in one house were effected. From that date until the end of the year cases were notified at fairly regular intervals. The greatest prevalence of this disease was in the neighbourhood of Watermoor and Gloucester Street, although every part of the town was affected, more or less.

It was not possible to take some of the cases into the Isolation Hospital, owing to insufficient accommodation ; this having been accentuated by the fact that the Rural District was suffering from a prevalence of infectious disease during the same period.

A considerable number of school children were effected, and the spread of the disease was, to some extent, influenced by the fact that, not infrequently, members of the same family attended two schools, so that carriers from infected families, where the disease had not been recognised, simultaneously caused outbreaks in different parts of the town.

A considerable number of cases, both of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, appeared to have a common connection with the milk supply from a certain farm in the Rural District—the milk being retailed by a middleman, in whose family Scarlet Fever had occurred. Both this farm and the milkseller's premises were visited on several occasions, and on one occasion the cows were examined. It was ascertained that some members of the farmer's family had suffered from sore throats, which at that time were prevalent in the district. It was found that one of the milkers was apparently suffering from boils on the hands, although a swab, taken from a specimen of the discharge, revealed no sign of the K.L. bacillus. However, it was obviously undesirable that he should continue to milk until the sores were healed, and instructions were given accordingly. There were three children, who were infected by Scarlet Fever, in the milkseller's family. The first case was isolated at home, during which period the milk business was carried on from another house ; the other two cases were admitted to Hospital.

No origin could be found to the single case of Typhoid Fever, which occurred in the District, and the diagnosis was not confirmed by an examination of the blood.

The one case of Puerperal Fever was apparently not connected with any preventable conditions.

The single notification of Ophthalmic Neonatorum was inquired into, and the nurse instructed as to the necessary precautions.

Of the five cases of Tuberculosis, three were work-house inmates, neither of whom were residents of District.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Whooping Cough was especially prevalent, and it was necessary to close two of the Infant Schools on that account. Cases were also reported of Chicken-Pox, Mumps, Ringworm, and impetigo.

Further remarks on the control of acute infectious diseases and Tuberculosis have been made on pages 5 and 7.

VITAL STATISTICS AND INFANT MORTALITY.

The 122 births recorded for the district give the very low birth-rate of 15·9. The 112 nett deaths give a death-rate of 14·6, and this figure when standardised becomes 13·1. This rate is higher than any for the past five years. The infant mortality rate of 82 is also higher than usual. The five deaths from Diphtheria give the high death-rate of ·65 from this disease. This is approximately one death for every six cases notified.

There were two fatal cases in the hospital and the rest occurred outside. The type of this disease was very severe and deaths occurred in some instances very soon after the patient had been seen by the medical attendant.

Free anti-toxin is supplied for the use of poor patients by the Local Authority. The death-rate from Whooping Cough is also high, being ·26. As has been previously mentioned this disease has been very prevalent.

The death-rates from Respiratory diseases (2·21) and Cancer (1·95) were rather above the average, especially the former.

Sixty-one deaths out of 112 occurred amongst persons aged 65 and upwards.

Thirty-six deaths occurred in Institutions in the district, viz., the Workhouse Infirmary, the Cottage Hospital and the Isolation Hospital.

The deaths among infants under one year of age included two from Whooping Cough.

One inquest was held on a child aged five weeks who died of influenza.

One death only occurred in the first four weeks of life.

MARTIN ASHLEY.

TABLE I.--BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		Transferable Deaths of Non-Residents registered in the district	Transferable Deaths of Residents not registered in the district	NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Uncorrected Number	Nett		Number.	Rate.			Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	7612	161		21.1	122	16.0	20	5	9	56	107	14.0
1910	7622	166		21.7	100	13.1	14	0	17	102	86	11.2
1911	7632	140	133	17.4	124	16.2	28	3	7	53	99	12.9
1912	7642	158	151	19.7	116	15.1	23	7	11	72	100	13.0
1913	7652	158	157	20.5	105	13.7	17	10	10	63	98	12.8
1914	7662	122	122	15.9	132	17.2	25	5	10	82	112	14.6

Area of district in acres 5,286
Total population at all ages (1911) 7,632
Total families or separate occupiers (1911) ... 1,687

TABLE II.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASES.	Cases and Ages.								Cases and Localities.				
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	Gloucester	Watermoor	Workhouse	Others	Removed to Hospital
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	31	0	4	20	3	3	0	0	8	16	0	7	18
Erysipelas	4	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	3	0
Scarlet Fever	18	0	7	6	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	17	11
Enteric Fever	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Puerperal Fever	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	
Totals	61	2	11	26	7	7	1	1	8	19	3	29	30

Isolation Hospital—Cirencester Joint Isolation Hospital.

TABLE III.—MORTALITY AT ALL AGES.

DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.				All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Deaths in Institutions.	
All causes—certified				112										
,, uncertified				0										
Whooping Cough ... .. ..				...	2..	2..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0	0	
Diphtheria and Croup .. ..				...	5..	0..	0..	1..	4..	0..	0..	0	4	
Influenza ... .. ...				...	7..	1..	0..	0..	0..	0..	1..	1..	4	0
Phthisis, Pulmonary Tuberculosis				...	2..	0..	0..	0..	0..	1..	0..	1..	0	3
Tuberculous Meningitis .. ..				...	1..	0..	0..	0..	1..	0..	0..	0..	0	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease ..				..	15..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	2..	13	3
Rheumatic Fever .. ... ...				...	1..	0..	0..	0..	0..	1..	0	0..	0	0
Organic Heart Disease ... ...				...	7..	0..	0..	0..	1..	1..	0..	3..	2	0
Bronchitis .. .. .. ...				..	7..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	1..	6	4
Pneumonia (all forms) .. ...				...	9..	1..	0..	2..	0..	1..	0..	2..	3	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs				..	1..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	1..	0	0
Diarrhœa & Enteritis .. .. ..				..	1..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	1	0
Appendicitis and Typhilitis .. ..				..	2..	0..	1..	0..	1..	0..	0..	0..	0	2
Nephritis and Bright's Disease .. ..				..	3..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	1..	2..	0	2
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition .. ...				..	2..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	2..	0..	0	0
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth .. ..				..	4..	3	1..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0	0
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide				..	4..	0..	0..	0..	0..	1	1..	1..	1	4
Other Defined Diseases ... .. ..				..	36..	3..	0..	0..	0..	0..	2..	1..	30	11
Diseases ill-defined or unknown .. ..				..	3..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	1..	1..	1	1
Totals				..	112..	10..	2..	3..	7..	5	8..	16..	61	36

TABLE IV.—INFANTILE MORTALITY.

	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	Total
All causes—certified	10									
„ „ uncertified	0									
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Premature Birth	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
Other causes	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	4
Totals	1	0	0	0	1	3	1	3	2	10

Births in the year—Legitimate 115 ; Illegitimate 7.

Deaths in the year—Legitimate 9 ; Illegitimate 1.

CIRENCESTER RURAL DISTRICT.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The area of the district is 80,991 acres, and the population at the Census of 1911 was 12,747. The average number of persons per 100 acres at the same Census was 16 only, so that the district is one of the most thinly populated in Gloucestershire; the average for Rural Districts in this County being 30·5 persons per 100 acres.

The District is almost entirely agricultural and residential, the largest centre of population being the small town of Fairford with a population of 1,410.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the various parishes is as follows, so far as present information is available; although it is hoped that at a later period more details will be known as to the actual number of houses in each parish which derive their supply from the various sources.

AMPNEY CRUCIS.—Water is pumped from a spring near Ampney Park to a storage tank, whence it gravitates through the village. There are three standpipes.

AMPNEY ST. MARY.—Water is pumped from a spring to a tank in Lower Field Lane, whence it is distributed by means of pipes and taps. This supply was insufficient in 1912, and an attempt was made to bore deeper; but this had to be given up owing to the rise of water. Another attempt will probably be made when opportunity arises.

AMPNEY ST. PETER.—The supply is from shallow wells, which are liable to fail in dry weather ; water from the brook, however, is available for washing purposes on such occasions.

BAGENDON.—One source of supply is from a spring, whence water is forced by ram and oil engine to a cistern underground (13,000 gallons), as well as to a tank holding 15,000 gallons. Farms and cottages are served by means of pipes and taps. Some other houses derive their supply from a separate spring, whilst a limited number are dependent on shallow wells which are liable to fail in summer, when water has to be fetched from a considerable distance.

BARNSLEY.—The supply is from shallow wells ; in very dry weather it has been necessary to bring water from Bibury in carts.

BAUNTON.—The supply is pumped from a spring near Perrott's Brook to storage tanks, whence houses are served through pipes and taps. The average daily quantity of water raised is 10,000 gallons, and an unlimited supply could be obtained.

BRIMPSFIELD is partly supplied by a spring and storage reservoir through gravitation in pipes, an arrangement having been effected with the Cheltenham Rural District for this purpose. Certain houses are also supplied from wells, and some of these are liable to fail in times of drought, so that it is sometimes necessary to use water from the brook. The portion of Brimpsfield known as Caudle Green derives water from a spring which is good and never failing.

COATES.—A well 80 feet in depth, supplies water to this parish by an arrangement with the Cirencester Rural District Council. The average daily amount of water

obtained is 10,000 gallons, and it is said that a further 20,000 gallons could be raised if required. The water is pumped to a storage reservoir (5,000 gallons) whence it is distributed to standpipes by gravitation. The supply, which is constant, has been analysed on two occasions, viz., in 1898 and 1909—both samples were described as being wholesome and suited for domestic purposes, but whereas nitrates were absent on the former occasion, they were present (3·83) on the latter. In 1898 there were 14·40 of hardness, of which 5·60 were permanent. There is no filtration.

COLESBOURNE.—A spring at Penhill and underground reservoir supplies the various houses by means of pipes.

DAGLINWORTH.—A spring and small storage tank at Middle Duntisbourne, from which 5,000 gallons daily is drawn, is the source of the supply, by gravitation through pipes and taps.

DUNTISBOURNE ROUSE is supplied from the same source as Daglinworth and in the same manner. £1 per annum is paid to Corpus Christi College for the right of using the water, Daglinworth paying 12s. and Duntisbourne Rouse, 8s.

DOWN AMPNEY.—Shallow wells, which are said not to fail in dry weather.

DRIFFIELD.—Wells, which yield a never-failing supply.

DUNTISBOURNE ABBOTTS.—A spring in the village overflows to a trough by the side of the road. Some householders have a considerable distance to go for water. The lower part of Duntisbourne Abbots or Leer is supplied from a spring on the common through pipes and taps. This source may be insufficient, and on such occasions water is obtained from the brook.

EDGWORTH.—Water from a spring is forced by a ram to an underground reservoir, whence houses are supplied by gravitation through pipes and taps. There are also other springs.

ELKSTONE.—Never-failing supply from springs, there are also some shallow wells, but water from the latter is not used much for drinking purposes.

FAIRFORD.—Water is pumped by water-wheel from a spring near the mill to an underground reservoir (capacity 20,000 gallons), pipes are laid on from this to many houses and there are also some standpipes. There are a considerable number of houses which are dependent on shallow wells for their water.

HARNHILL.—Never-failing supply from spring.

HATHEROP.—Supply from well 140 feet deep, whence water is pumped by water-wheel to a reservoir and distributed by gravitation. There are five public taps, besides supplies to houses. A certain number of shallow wells are in use.

KEMBLE.—Supplied from a deep well belonging to the Great Western Railway Company. There are three standpipes in the village.

KEMPSFORD.—Never-failing wells. There is also one spring.

MAISEYHAMPTON.—Supplied by shallow wells as well as in part from a well 190 feet deep at Ready Token; the water from which is pumped to a 30,000 gallon reservoir. The daily yield, which is constant, is 1,756 gallons, and probably an unlimited supply could be obtained. There is no filtration.

POULTON.—Supplied by shallow wells, and also from the well at Ready Token (vide Maiseyhampton), from which water is distributed by pipes and taps. In dry

weather the houses which are dependent on shallow wells for water have been supplied by means of water-carts on account of insufficiency.

NORTH CERNEY has a piped supply, as also have WOODMANCOTE and CALMSDEN.

POOLE KEYNES is supplied from a spring at Oakwell, whence water is pumped by ram. There are three taps in the village for the use of householders. In addition there are also some shallow wells. The supply at Oakwell is not always sufficient in dry weather and it is thought locally that this may be due to the drain of supply from the Kemble Water Works.

PRESTON.—A well 100 feet deep supplies the water, which is pumped to a reservoir and thence flows by gravitation. There are two taps in the street, as well as some in the houses.

QUENINGTON is partly supplied by the Hatherop well and partly from Coln St. Aldwyn Parish, the latter supply being pumped to a reservoir of 20,000 gallons' capacity, whence it is distributed by gravitation in pipes. There are also some shallow wells.

RENDCOMB has a piped supply.

RODMARTON, including Culkerton and Tarlton, are supplied from the same source. There being a gas engine pumping station at Jackamant's Bottom, whence water is pumped to a covered reservoir at Tarlton. There is one standpipe at Rodmarton and one each at Culkerton and Tarlton.

SAPPERTON, including Frampton Mansell, is supplied from wells and springs.

SIDDINGTON.—Shallow wells. Water said to be sufficient.

SOMERFORD KEYNES.—Shallow wells. Supply sufficient.

SOUTH CERNEY.—Never-failing shallow wells.

STRATTON.—Supplied by pipes from the same well which supplies the town of Cirencester. There are also some shallow wells.

SYDE.—Springs. Good and never-failing.

WINSTONE.—Supplied chiefly from one public well. It is stated that there is no insufficiency, but the well is insufficiently protected from pollution.

SEWERAGE.

FAIRFORD.—Communications were received from the Thames Conservancy Board respecting pollution of the “Green Ditch” in Milton Street, also respecting a ditch at East End. With reference to the former, the sewer was extended along Coronation Street to receive the slop drainage of the houses, which hitherto had not been disconnected from the surface water drain. To remedy the latter, similar extension has been ordered, and when completed will probably remove the source of complaint.

KEMPSFORD.—The Thames Conservancy Board also complained of pollution taking place at each end of the village. These matters were dealt with by diverting the slop drainage referred to in their report into covered soakaway tanks, and by the disconnection of certain house drains, so that their drainage was dealt with on their own premises.

POULTON.—The sludge tanks and filters have been cleaned out and the filters renewed with coke.

PRESTON.—The improvements effected in connection with the overflow from the tanks appear to work satisfactorily.

STRATTON.—Nothing further has been done to the system at Stratton and no complaints have been received.

SCAVENGING.

No scavenging is carried out by the Sanitary Authority in any part of the District, although it would be an advantage if such were undertaken in some of the larger villages.

The nuisance from the refuse tip at Stratton appears to have been abated by the Parish Council employing a man regularly to cover freshly deposited refuse with earth. No public scavenging is undertaken, however, although some of the gardens are small and the occupiers of some of the houses have to carry the contents of the pail closets to the refuse tip.

Scavenging was suggested to the Parish Councils of Fairford and Siddington, but up to the present no action has resulted.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 20 bakehouses on the register and 25 inspections have been made. A notice was received from the Factory Inspector of a bakehouse that required lime-washing, otherwise no matters have called for attention.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

The eight slaughter-houses have been frequently inspected. One has been given up at South Cerney, and a fresh one registered at Siddington. Very little slaughtering is done at six of the eight slaughter-houses. A few notices respecting minor matters only have been required during the year.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are 62 dairies and cowsheds on the register, which are, for the most part, owned by large landowners.

Most of the milk is sent off by rail very soon after milking, so that the dairies themselves are little used. In a few cases milk is retailed in the town of Cirencester chiefly by middlemen.

FOOD.

No action with regard to unsound food has been taken during the year. Remarks on the administration of the Food and Drugs Act have been made on page 4.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Three notices of occupation of workshops were received from the Factory Inspector and five others were added to the register, bringing the total number up to 112, an increase of eight during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Thirty-two cases of Diphtheria and 42 of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as well as two of Erysipelas. 49 houses were affected and 29 patients were removed to Hospital. Six deaths occurred from Diphtheria, or 18·7 per cent. of the cases notified. Of these, two died in the Hospital and four outside. In the early part of the year a series of eight cases occurred in Down Ampney following on the cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria notified in the previous year. The incidence was chiefly amongst the school children and on May 16th the last notification was received.

Diphtheria also occurred in Preston and North Cerney. The former parish being affected by its neighbourhood to Cirencester, where many children attend school, and where Diphtheria was prevalent during the year. In North Cerney four cases occurred in one family from which one death resulted. Siddington, however, was the parish chiefly affected. For with a population of 524 and 118

inhabited houses, it was visited with 10 cases of Diphtheria and 18 of Scarlet Fever. In this case, as in that of Preston, the proximity of the parish to Cirencester was partly responsible for the outbreak.

Apparently many cases were of mixed infection since in all the parishes mentioned Scarlet Fever preceded Diphtheria and the first case of Diphtheria had no apparent origin from any other known cases; whilst, however, the Scarlet Fever was uniformly mild the Diphtheria was, in many cases, exceptionally severe, so that deaths occurred within a very short time after the medical attendant had been called in.

The children attending the Public Elementary Schools were largely affected, and for this reason the schools were repeatedly visited and the children examined for "missed" cases, and the homes of those visited who were absent from school with suspicious illnesses; swabs being taken for bacteriological examination in any doubtful cases, where a medical man was not in attendance.

Both the Down Ampney and Siddington Schools were closed at one period of the epidemic, the attendance being very low, partly on account of widespread dread of the disease. The schools were disinfected by means of scrubbing with disinfectant. The walls and desks being treated as well as the floors and a large spray was used, belonging to the County Education Committee, for the purpose of spraying with formalin during the period of closure. On re-opening, swabs were taken from both throats and noses of all the children at Siddington, with the result, however, that only one carrier was found.

During the course of inquiry it was found amongst the school children that a certain number of unsuspected illnesses were without doubt either Scarlet Fever or

Diphtheria, and would have escaped notice but for such visits owing to the fact that, being affected with a mild type of the disease, no medical man had been called in. This was the case, both at Stratton, Elkstone and Siddington. No doubt other cases occurred amongst adults, which were unsuspected, and so were partly responsible for spread of infection.

The insufficiency of accommodation at the Isolation Hospital was also partly responsible, and many cases were unable to come in owing to lack of room, although this matter is now being remedied by the construction of a new wing, which will accommodate 12 extra patients. Much of the parish of Siddington is flat and lowlying, and in wet seasons is especially affected by floods, so that the water supply, which is from shallow wells, is undoubtedly liable to contamination. The houses in this parish are many of them old, with the usual structural defects pertaining to age. Many, however, have been considerably improved lately owing to inspections under the Housing Regulations, and some houses are quite modern.

Closet accommodation is partly pail and partly privy, slops either drain to a dumb well or are thrown on the ground. Water supply is from shallow wells, and there is no lack as regards quantity. There is no overcrowding of houses and the population is chiefly agricultural although a certain number who live in Siddington work in Cirencester.

At a meeting of the Rural District Council it was pointed out that it would be an advantage to consider the question of improving the sanitation of Siddington and the following recommendations were made to the Parish Council :—

- 1.—The provision of a piped water supply.
- 2.—The provision of an efficient system of drainage.

At the same time the Sanitary Inspector was instructed to proceed with the conversion of the privies into pail closets, as rapidly as practicable. At the end of the year no reply had been received from the Parish Council.

There appeared to be grounds for suspicion that the milk supply from one of the farms was partly responsible for the epidemic and action taken in that connection has been described in the Report for the Cirencester Urban District; the milk supply being identical, in many instances, in both districts.

Further remarks on the control of infectious diseases have been made on page 7.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Whooping Cough was prevalent at Kemble, Poole, Keynes and Rodmarton, and Chicken Pox at Rendcomb, necessitating school closure in each case.

Impetigo was prevalent at Poulton and persisted for a considerable time. The spread of infection was probably in part due to the use of towels in common by the school children.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Seven cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year, one of them being an inmate of an asylum in Surrey. The Rural District Council have now disposed of their bed at Winsley, since, now that the County Authorities have undertaken the treatment of all cases of Tuberculosis, it is no longer required.

The Rural Council, however, still own three shelters, which have been constantly in use. Further remarks on the control of Tuberculosis have been made on page 5.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.**HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.**

A new block is being built on the site of the old hospital at a proposed cost of about £1,000, for the accommodation of twelve patients. It will now be possible to isolate both Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria without undue risk of cross infection. It is intended also to engage a permanent nurse, in addition to the Matron, instead of getting an extra nurse when required, since it has not always been found possible to do this sufficiently promptly. The drainage of the old premises are also being brought up to date by connecting with the main sewer.

HOUSING.

During the year, Dr. Carnwath, the Local Government Board Inspector, paid a visit to the district for the purpose of investigating the housing conditions.

Following his visit a letter was received from the Local Government Board referring to the common defects of insufficiency of light and ventilation, as well as dampness, unsatisfactory closet accommodation and defective paving amongst the houses of the working-classes in this district, and suggesting that the Council should take into consideration the question of building houses in the following parishes, viz., Kempsford, Sapperton, South Cerney, Daglinworth, North Cerney, Winstone and Fairford.

A further communication was also received referring to the frequent unsatisfactory drainage of houses which was liable in many cases to pollute the water supply, also to the frequency of the use of privies, which it would be an advantage to convert into earth or pail closets.

The advisability of insisting upon the statutory requirements of an ashpit and of introducing a system of scavenging in the larger villages, *e.g.*, Fairford and Stratton,

was also mentioned. The Council referred the letters to a Committee for consideration and as a result of the latter's recommendation passed a resolution that Mr. Lawson, a local Architect, be instructed to prepare plans for the erection of two cottages in each of the following parishes, viz., Daglinworth, Fairford, South Cerney, Siddington and Ampney Crucis, to be let at an economic rent of between 4s. 6d. and 5s. each.

The Committee were of the opinion that in the above-mentioned parishes cottages were most likely to let at an economic rent, and this would probably be the case, since there would be competition for the vacant houses by persons who are at present residing in Cirencester, and where the demand for working-class dwellings is very great.

The following is a summary of routine work done during the year as supplied by Mr. Matthews, the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :—

HOUSING :

Plans for new houses approved	...	...	...	13
Houses built	...	...	...	13
Houses for which water certificates were granted				19

HOUSING INSPECTIONS :

Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	164
Houses with defects for which notices were necessary	...	...	...	...	88
Notices served—					
Under Sec. 15—Housing, &c., Act, 1909	...				0
Under other Sections Public Health Acts	...				88
Number remedied	...	...	...	...	80
Houses unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	39
,, ,, made habitable without Closing Order					0
Representations to Council (Closing Orders)	...				39
Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	34
Houses put in a fit state after service Closing Orders					6
Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	0
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	6
				(Voluntarily)	
Cases of overcrowding reported	...	...	...	...	3
Cases abated	...	...	...	...	3
Houses cleansed on notice	...	...	...	...	12

WATER SUPPLY :

New connections with public supply	...	...	76
			(Mostly at Fairford)
Wells sunk	...	...	1

DRAINAGE :

Houses newly connected with sewers	...	...	30
			(Chiefly Fairford)
W.C's. newly supplied with flushing cisterns	...	...	10
Earth closets, pail closets or improved privies constructed...	...	...	21
Notices served to empty privy vaults	...	...	18
Privy vaults abolished	...	...	2

NUMBERS INSPECTED OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING :

	No. on register	No. inspections.
Slaughter-houses...	8	64
Bakehouses	20	25
Dairies, &c.	62	74
Workshops	74	74

GENERAL :

Complaints received	...	...	17
Nuisances reported to the Council—			
Total	...	...	163
Swine	...	...	1
Nuisances abated	...	...	158
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	163
Statutory Notices served	...	...	2
Summonses taken out	...	...	0

INFECTIOUS DISEASE :

Cases visited and reported on	...	...	86
Houses in which cases occurred	...	...	59
Houses disinfected	...	...	59

As regards the above summary, the inspection of the Parish of Preston has been completed; Harnhill and Driffild have also been inspected and South Cerney is being proceeded with.

During the past year 11 houses have been built with a rental value of less than £16 yearly, in the following parishes :—Ampney St. Mary 2, Coates 1, Colesbourne 2, Daglinworth 2, Kemble 1, North Cerney 1, Quenington 2.

During the past 10 years 91 houses have been built with a rental value of less than £16 yearly.

Representations were made with a view to closing orders being served on 39 houses situated in 12 different parishes and 34 closing orders were made in the following Parishes :—

AMPNEY ST. MARY.—1. The house will be demolished. Two new houses are being built.

COATES.—2. One of these houses is closed and unoccupied, the other is still being tenanted.

DAGLINWORTH.—3. Two houses were closed and demolished voluntarily and two others built. One house was not closed, although unfit for habitation.

DOWN AMPNEY.—1. This house is closed and unoccupied.

KEMPSFORD.—7. Two houses are void and will not be re-occupied until repaired or re-built. Two have been repaired and are re-occupied and three are still tenanted by old people. They will be re-built as soon as they become vacant.

MAISEYHAMPTON.—1. This house has been repaired and re-occupied.

PRESTON.—2. Both repaired and re-occupied.

SAPPERTON (Frampton Mansell).—Two are now void, and two others which are very indifferent houses are still occupied.

SIDDINGTON.—3. One is now void and two are still occupied.

SOMERFORD KEYNES.—1. Repaired and re-occupied.

SOUTH CERNEY.—10. Four are now void and six are still occupied, of which four will be extensively repaired.

WINSTONE.—5. Four new houses will shortly be built in this parish. In the meantime the houses are occupied.

During the year 1913 five representations were made, and of these houses two are being enlarged and renovated, the others are still occupied by old people.

Some details which have been supplied by Mr. Matthews, the Sanitary Inspector, with regard to the houses inspected in the Parishes of Preston, Driffield and Harnhill, are as follows :—

PRESTON.—In this parish a total of 35 houses have now been inspected, 17 of which, with a population of 48 adults and 26 children, had two bedrooms and one living room each, or an average of 4·3 persons per house. The greatest number of persons occupying one house was nine. 28 houses were found to have earth or pail closets, 4 privy vaults, and 3 had water closets. 21 were drained to the sewer, 12 to cesspools, and 2 had no drains. 7 houses derived their water supply from wells, 17 from wells and public taps, 4 from public taps only and 7 had private taps. The total population in the 35 houses under £16 rental was 146, being an average of 4·1 persons per house. Two occupiers were employed outside the parish.

HARNHILL.—12 houses were inspected of which 9 had two bedrooms and one living room, with a population of 22 adults and 15 children, or an average of 4·1 persons per house. The greatest number of persons in three rooms was 7. Half of the houses had privy vaults and half earth or pail closets. All the houses derived their water from wells. The total population in the 12 houses under £16 rental was 48. The average number per house being 4·0.

DRIFFIELD.—The total number of houses inspected was 26, of which 20 had two bedrooms and one living room. 59 adults and 17 children occupied these 20 houses, or an average of 3·8 per house. The greatest number occupying

either of these houses with three rooms was 7. Nine houses had privy vaults and 17 earth or pail closets. 12 drained to cesspools, 11 to sewers or road drains, and 3 had no drains. All the houses derived their water supply from shallow wells.

Of the 26 houses in this parish 20 are tied to the farms. The total population in the 26 houses under £16 rental was 104. An average of 4·0 in each.

During the past year houses have been inspected in 22 other parishes.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The 228 births recorded for the district gives the low birth-rate of 17·6.

The 153 deaths of persons belonging to the district give a crude death-rate of 13·2, which figures when corrected for age and sex become 11·2. This rate is rather above the average for Rural Districts in Gloucestershire.

Although the Zymotic rate was low, being ·46, the Diphtheria death-rate was high, being also ·46, and of 32 cases of this disease, 6 deaths were recorded, of which 2 died in the Hospital.

The death-rate from Phthisis (·6) and other Tubercular Diseases (·3) are not far removed from the average for the county Rural Districts. The former being below and the latter slightly above.

The death-rates for Cancer (1·3) and Respiratory Diseases (1·7), although slightly above that for Rural Districts in this County, are not far removed from the average.

There were three uncertified deaths, all of very old people.

Sixteen persons died in Institutions in the district, viz., in the Cottage Hospitals at Cirencester and Fairford and the "Reteat," Fairford.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The Infant Mortality rate (61) is below the average for Rural Districts in this County, but of the 14 deaths of infants under one year of age five died in the first week of life and nine in the first month. There were three illegitimate infants, all of whom died of malnutrition and on all of whom inquests were held. Six deaths occurred either from Gastritis, Enteritis or Diarrhoea. It would appear that, although the Infant Mortality rate was low for this district, some of the deaths might have been prevented.

MARTIN ASHLEY.

TABLE I.—BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

YEAR.	Population Estimated to Middle of Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		Transferable Deaths of Non-Residents registered in the District.	Transferable Deaths of Residents not registered in the District.	NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Uncorrected Number	Nett.						Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.			Number.	Rate per 1000 Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
09 ...	12614	277		21·0	148	11·6	4	29	15	54	173	13·
10 ...	12680	254		20·0	119	9·3	9	20	14	55	130	10·
11 ...	12747	267	274	21·5	139	10·9	9	35	18	65	165	12·
12 ...	12813	257	266	20·7	123	9·5	6	28	12	45	145	11·
13 ...	12880	241	243	18·8	133	10·3	5	25	18	74	153	11·
14 ...	12946	228	228	17·6	148	11·4	7	30	14	61	171	13·

Area of District in Acres	...	...	..	80,991
Total population at all ages (1911)	...	...	...	12,747
Total families or separate occupiers	...	...	...	3,081

TABLE II.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	At all Ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	Down Ampney	Preston	Siddington	North Cerney	Stratton	Others	Total removed to Hospital
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	32	0...2...	26...	3...	1...	0...	0...	0...	8...	7...	10	4...	0...	3	12
Erysipelas ...	2	0...0...	0...	0...	0...	1...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	2	0
Scarlet Fever	42	0...9...	23..	3...	3...	0...	1...	0...	0...	0...	18...	8...	6...	10	17
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	0...0...	0...	0...	4...	2...	0...	0...	0	0...	0...	1...	0...	5	0
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	0...0...	0..	0...	1...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0..	0...	1	0
Totals ...	83	0	11	49	6	9	3	1	8	7	28	13	6	21	29

Isolation Hospital.—Cirencester Joint Isolation Hospital.

TABLE III.—MORTALITY AT ALL AGES.

DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.													Total deaths in public Institutions in district
CAUSES OF DEATHS.		All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards			
All causes—certified	168												
„ „ uncertified	3											3	
Diphtheria and Croup	...	6	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza	...	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
Phthisis—Pul. Tuberculosis	...	8	0	0	0	0	3	3	1	1	1	0	0
Other tuberculous diseases	...	4	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer, malignant disease	...	17	0	0	0	0	0	4	10	3	3	3	3
Organic Heart disease	...	27	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	21	1	1	1
Bronchitis	...	15	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	12	1	1	1
Pneumonia—all forms	...	8	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	4	1	1	1
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	...	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	3	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Alcoholism	...	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	2	2
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Debility, &c, including Premature Birth	...	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Violent Deaths—not Suicide	...	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Suicide	...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Other Defined Diseases	...	45	3	0	1	1	3	4	3	30	6	6	6
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	...	14	2	0	0	1	0	4	2	5	0	0	0
171 .. 14 .. 2 .. 6 .. 6 .. 13 .. 23 .. 27 .. 80													16

SUB-ENTRIES of special importance, included in above figures—

TABLE IV.—INFANT MORTALITY.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	under 1 month	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total
All causes—Certified	14									
„ „ Uncertified	0									
Diarrhœa	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Enteritis	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Gastritis	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Congenital defects	...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Premature birth	...	2	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	4
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	0	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	3
Other causes	...	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Total	...	5	0	2	2	9	1	0	1	14

Births in the year—Legitimate 220 ; Illegitimate 8.

Deaths in the year—Legitimate 11 ; Illegitimate 3.

TETBURY URBAN DISTRICT.

A.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Urban District of Tetbury, which has an area of 114 acres and an estimated population of 1,689, comprises the Town and Parish of Tetbury; it enjoys a naturally elevated and healthy situation, and is the market centre for the agricultural population of the surrounding district.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply is derived from a well and bore-hole sunk in the great oolite to a depth of about 300 ft., whence it is pumped to a covered reservoir with a capacity of about 50,000 gallons, which supplies the town.

As mentioned in previous Annual Reports the deficient water supply has long been a source of anxiety, and during the past year this deficiency has been accentuated.

A Local Government Board Inquiry was held in the early part of the year and, as a result of this, a loan of £750 was granted for the purpose of sinking a well. The well, however, which was sunk to a depth of 70 ft. in Chavenage Lane, yielded but very little water.

Accordingly a deputation from the Urban District Council visited the Local Government Board Offices for the purpose of asking advice as to the best course to adopt; as a consequence of this the Urban District Council have now decided to make an application for a further loan to enable them to sink a 14 inch bore-hole to a depth of 400 ft. on the present site. The amount of loan now to be applied for is £3,313.

The Tetbury Urban District is not included in the area which the West Gloucestershire Water Company has power to supply, although by a recent Act they have extended their powers to part of the Rural District.

I understand, however, that the Company may supply any Local Authorities or person outside their limits of supply by agreement, so that the Urban District Council might obtain water in that way, if desirable.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

On the occasion of the Local Government Board Inquiry with reference to the water question, an opportunity was taken of applying for a loan of £200 in order to connect a group of houses in Charlton Road to the sewer. The loan was granted and this work is now being completed. One house has already been connected, and 30 others will be so in the near future. On the completion of this work there will be very few closets besides water closets in the town.

PREMISES THAT MAY BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

The two lodging-houses are both adapted dwellings. One is registered for 19 lodgers and the other for 20. Both the houses are very old, and would require very extensive alterations to make them really suitable for common lodging-houses.

BAKEHOUSES are five in number. Although some are good, others are very indifferent; although partly so owing to insufficient attention to cleanliness and the tendency to store various articles in places that should be kept only for the making and storing of bread, partly also owing to bad structural defects. Certain defects that have come under notice are the following:—Defective drain

inlets, defective paving, fixed dough troughs so that dirt accumulates underneath, insufficient storage accommodation for both flour and bread, so that it is not uncommon to find bread arranged on sacks on the floor; an obviously insanitary custom where dogs are common.

Little has been done to induce owners to remedy these defects by structural alterations during the past year, since there are many houses in Tetbury which are being dealt with, and labour is stated to be limited, but it is certainly necessary that alterations should be made as soon as practicable.

HOUSING.

A general description of the housing conditions of Tetbury was given in the Annual Report for 1913.

In the early part of the year a visit was paid to the district by Dr. Carnwath, the Local Government Board Inspector, for the purpose of investigating housing conditions. As a result of his visit the Local Government Board suggested that the Council should provide 10 or 15 houses under Part III. of the Housing of the Working-Class Act, 1890. The Board also were of opinion that, although a certain amount of inspection had been carried out under Section 17 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, the steps taken by the District Council to deal with the unsatisfactory conditions revealed by the inspection had been altogether inadequate.

A Committee was appointed to consider the matter, at a meeting of which it was stated that there were between 20 and 30 vacant houses in the town so that no necessity for building others was apparent. It was also decided to serve closing orders on 12 of the worst houses which were represented as being unfit for habitation and of which the owners had been indifferent to the notices served.

I understand that it is correct that at present there are between 20 and 30 vacant houses in the town, although these are not all houses suitable for the working-classes, nor has an inspection been made of them for the purpose of ascertaining how many are, or could be made, fit for occupation.

There is no doubt that many more repairs to houses have been executed during the past year than previously, but the fact remains that many working-class houses in Tetbury are bad, and cannot be made really satisfactory, however much they are repaired, owing to structural and other defects, chiefly incidental to their age and situation. The position, therefore, at the end of the year is that the owners of 12 bad houses have been served with closing orders. 20 or 30 houses are vacant as against 8 in the early part of the year, and the remaining defective houses have received more attention than has been given them in the past, but only so far as the available labour which is limited in the town has had time to deal with the defects ; otherwise conditions are substantially the same as described in the Annual Report for 1913.

The following is a summary of the Routine work done during the year, together with a schedule relating to the housing inspections as supplied by Mr. Davison, the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :—

HOUSING :

Plans for new houses approved	...	...	...	0
Houses built	...	...	...	0
Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910—				
Houses inspected	...	...	...	29
Houses reinspected	...	...	...	40
Houses with defects for which notices were necessary...	...	...	...	69
Houses for which notices were served	...	...	...	69
(a) Under Sec. 15 Housing, Town Planning Act, 1909				
No. remedied	...	...	...	0

(b) Under other Public Health Acts	...	..	78
No. remedied	...	...	38
Houses unfit for habitation	...	...	12
No. made habitable without Closing Orders	...	...	0
Representations made to District Council	...	...	12
Closing orders made	...	...	12
Demolition orders	...	...	0
Cases of overcrowding reported	...	...	2
Number abated	...	...	2
Houses cleansed on notice	...	...	4

WATER SUPPLY :

New connections with Public Supply	...	...	7
Samples taken for examination	...	...	0

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE :

Houses newly connected with sewers	...	...	18
W.C.'s newly supplied with flushing cisterns	...	...	4
Notices to empty privy vaults	...	...	7
Privy vaults abolished...	...	...	6

NUMBERS INSPECTED OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING :

	No. on register	No. inspections
Common Lodging-houses	2	8
Slaughter-houses...	2	8
Bakehouses	5	10
Dairies, cowsheds and milkshops	1	2
Workshops	32	32

GENERAL :

Complaints received	...	...	4
Nuisances reported to District Council	...	...	74
Nuisances abated	...	...	57
Preliminary notices served	...	...	74
Statutory notices served	...	...	9
Summonses taken out	...	...	0

INFECTIOUS DISEASE :

Cases visited and reported on	...	...	3
Houses in which cases occurred	...	...	3
Houses disinfected	...	...	5

In connection with the above summary, the areas which were inspected were Mount Pleasant, the Knapp, Charlton Road and Church Lane. The houses on which closing orders were made were situated in Harper Street (7), Malthouse Yard (3), Chipping Steps (2); and the owners affected were four in number.

Statutory Notices were also served on five owners in respect of 12 houses which formed part of a list of 27, which were brought to the notice of the Council, owing to the usual preliminary notices not having been complied with. Of these 12 houses, six were subsequently served with closing orders (forming part of the number already mentioned) and the defects of the others have been only partially dealt with.

It is doubtful if these Statutory Notices will be followed up by taking the cases into Court, and in any case, it will be more difficult to get houses completely dealt with by taking action under Section 91, Public Health Act, 1875, than by serving notices under Section 17, Housing and Town-Planning Act, 1909.

Four houses have been voluntarily demolished during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Thirty-three inspections were made during the year of the 32 workshops and one factory in the district. Four written notices were served, two for want of cleanliness, one for want of ventilation and one for insufficient sanitary accommodation.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

The office of Sanitary Inspector is combined with that of Surveyor and Water Engineer. The duties extend over both Urban and Rural Districts.

During the past year an Assistant has been provided, chiefly in connection with the extra work entailed by the housing inspections in the Urban and Rural Districts.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

There is no accommodation for acute infectious diseases in the district. The Council would have liked to

come to some arrangement with the Cirencester Districts, but the latter have no spare accommodation. I cannot see any immediate prospect of better means of isolation for infectious diseases unless the County Council make use of their powers and form a combination of districts for the purpose.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Two cases of Scarlet Fever and one of Enteric were notified during the year. The two former originated outside the district and the latter became infected in the common lodging-house, and was removed to the Workhouse Infirmary for treatment. The origin of the Typhoid case was no doubt connected with one of the patients' fellow lodgers, but the identity of the individual could not be traced.

Three notifications of Tuberculosis were received, two on Form A, of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and one on Form B, of Spinal Caries.

Further remarks on the Control of Acute Infectious Diseases and of Tuberculosis have been made on page 7.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Intimation of the following cases were sent to the Medical Officer of Health by the Head Teachers of the schools in Tetbury :—Scarlet Fever 1, Whooping Cough 57, Chicken Pox 7, Mumps 3, and Ringworm 1.

INFANT MORTALITY AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births recorded for the district was 39, after deducting three which were assigned to other districts; the birth-rate for the year was 23·6.

The number of deaths registered in the district was 30, of which five were those of non-residents. One person also, whose residence was in Tetbury, died outside the

district. The net number of deaths therefore, was 26 and the death-rate is 15·3, which after correcting for age and sex becomes 12·08.

Eight persons died in the Workhouse Infirmary during the year.

The three deaths from Whooping Cough give a death-rate of 1·77, which is also the zymotic rate, as there were no other deaths from zymotic diseases recorded.

The death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis is 1·18, and that for all forms of Tuberculosis, 1·77.

The two deaths among infants under one year of age were that of an infant aged four days, who died of debility and convulsions, and that of a child aged 10 months, who died of gastritis, resulting from rickets. The infant mortality rate was 51.

MARTIN ASHLEY.

TABLE III.—MORTALITY AT ALL AGES.

DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT
AT SUBJOINED AGES.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	Deaths in Institutions
All causes—Certified 26										
Uncertified 0										
Whooping Cough	3..	0..	1..	1..	1..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	2..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	2..	0..	0..	0
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	1..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	1..	0..	0..	0
Cancer, Malignant Disease ..	2..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	1..	1..	0
Organic Heart Disease ..	3..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	3..	0
Bronchitis	6..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	6..	3
Alcoholism	1..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	1..	0..	0..	0
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth..	1..	1..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0
Other Defined Diseases ..	7..	1..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	6..	4
Total	26..	2..	1..	1..	1..	0..	4..	1..	16..	8

TABLE IV.—INFANT MORTALITY.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total under 1 year.
All causes, certified 2										
,, uncertified 0										
Rickets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Atrophy, Debility										
Marasmus	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2

TETBURY RURAL DISTRICT.

The Tetbury Rural District has an area of 29,572 acres, of which 3,271 are in Wiltshire. The population is almost entirely agricultural and residential. A Cottage Hospital situated in the Parish of Long Newnton receives patients from both the Urban and Rural Districts. Subscribers of 10s. 6d. are entitled to recommend patients for admission; the patients themselves also pay a weekly sum, the amount of which is assessed by a Committee.

There is a Dispensary in the town of Tetbury, and patients are recommended for free medical attendance by holders of subscribers' tickets.

POOR-LAW RELIEF.—The number of persons relieved (indoor) on January 1st, 1913, 1914 and 1915 were 48, 45 and 34 respectively. The number relieved (out-door) on the same dates were 128, 123 and 123.

The proportion of paupers to census population in the Tetbury Union was 1 in 34 and 1 in 36 on January 1st, 1913 and 1914, as compared with 1 in 46 and 1 in 49 for the total of Gloucestershire. Comparative figures for January 1st, 1915, are not yet available.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the various parishes is as follows :

ASHLEY.—From springs and wells, no piped supply; water has had to be brought from Long Newnton in carts in very dry weather.

AVENING.—Public supply from a spring and covered reservoir, whence water is laid on to about 16 houses and various standpipes. There are also other springs at

Nagshead and Avening as well as some private wells. There is no deficiency and no reason to think that the supply is other than good. Some outlying farms at Lowsmore are supplied from a spring near Cherington, and indirectly from a reservoir to which the water is pumped ; six cottages in this neighbourhood are dependent on rain water for their supply.

BEVERSTONE.—Supply from wells. There is rarely, if ever, deficiency for drinking purposes, but it has been necessary to bring water in carts from Westonbirt in very dry weather for watering cattle.

LEIGHTERTON.—Leighterton is supplied from shallow wells and also rainwater tanks. In dry weather some of the wells are short and people “borrow” water from their neighbours. In very dry weather it has been necessary to bring water from Tresham or Lasborough in carts. There is a pond in the village, chiefly supplied by surface washing from the roads, from which water is used for washing purposes, in time of drought.

CHERINGTON.—Water is pumped from a well near the lake to a reservoir, from which the parish is supplied, by a standpipe in the village. A few houses at Evergreen are dependent on rainwater for their supply.

DIDMARTON is chiefly supplied by the West Gloucestershire Water Company's mains. There is also a spring and some wells. Occupiers of a few houses at the Folly, which are dependent on well water, have a considerable distance to go for water in very dry weather since their own water is then liable to be deficient.

KINGSCOTE.—A spring at Ashhill Barn supplies a covered reservoir from which water is laid on to a standpipe in Kingscote. This spring is liable to be short in dry weather so that it may be necessary to suspend the supply for an hour or two every day.

LONG NEWNTON.—Water supply laid on to standpipes from a well in Lord Estcourt's Park. There are also some private wells in the parish.

NEWINGTON BAGPATH.—There is no piped supply, but numerous springs from which water is fetched as required afford plenty of good water.

OZLEWORTH.—Supplied by springs from which water is fetched as required.

SHIPTON MOYNE is supplied from the well in Lord Estcourt's Park, which supplies Long Newnton. It is about 14 feet in depth and is situated 10 yards from the overflow from the lake, the lake itself being fed by the Avon. The well is said not to be steined.

A covered reservoir is situated at Long Newnton capable of holding 120,000 gallons, or six days' supply, and standpipes are served from this reservoir, both in Shipton Moyne and Long Newnton. In addition to the piped supply a few people have private wells.

Since the effluent from the sewage farm of Tetbury is discharged into the Avon, and the well probably draws its supply indirectly from the Avon, there would seem to be a possibility of pollution, and this source of supply should be analysed at regular intervals.

TETBURY UPTON is badly supplied with water, and there is not only considerable scarcity in dry weather, but many houses are without good water at any time. The Magdalen Reservoir is liable to pollution by cattle, and this is the water supply for about 50 houses in dry weather. Some houses are between one quarter to half-a-mile from the standpipe which this reservoir serves, and the supply is short in dry weather, so that the residents in the Rural district fall back on the Urban supply which is too little for their own use. In various other parts of the

parish shallow wells or rainwater tanks are used. At Upton in dry weather water is brought from Avening, which is two-and-a-half miles away. Some of the cottages in this neighbourhood (Upton) have rainwater supplies, but those that have not are badly off ; a group of ten cottages is so affected.

WESTONBIRT-with-LASBOROUGH.—Westonbirt is well supplied from a deep well and reservoir from which water is laid on to standpipes. Lasborough also has a piped supply which is satisfactory.

As soon as the Urban district of Tetbury obtains a good water supply the question of supplying parts of Tetbury Upton should receive immediate consideration. If such a course is found to be impracticable the Rural Council should undertake to provide a better water supply themselves.

The West Gloucestershire Water Company have lately obtained powers to extend their limits of supply by Act of Parliament. The Act includes the right to sink a well at Shipton Moyne and supply the parishes of Shipton Moyne, Westonbirt-with-Lasborough and Boxwell-with-Leighterton.

It is stated that a good supply of water has already been found at Shipton Moyne, but it appears that the parts of Tetbury Rural District which are mostly in need of a better supply are not likely to benefit by this extension unless they are supplied by agreement, which I understand the Act gives the Company power to do ; since the Tetbury Urban District and Tetbury Upton Parish are not included. It is hoped, however, that the Urban District of Tetbury will soon have a good supply of its own, when the requirements of Tetbury Upton can be dealt with by supplying the parish in bulk.

SCAVENGING

is badly needed in that part of Tetbury Upton known as Northfield. The houses in this neighbourhood have, many of them, small gardens, so that it is difficult for householders to dispose of their refuse. The same remarks apply to Avening and Didmarton, although in a less degree. Northfield, however, for all practical purposes is part of the Urban District.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewer at Didmarton receives the surface drainage from the roads as well as slop water, and drainage from water-closets. The sewer is covered through the village, but below it is open and runs along the highway for about 75 yards until it flows into an adjoining field. There is no real method of sewage disposal, and a considerable nuisance arises from this sewer, especially in summer, but at present no agreement has been arrived at by which this nuisance should be abated, although the matter has been considered by the Parish Council and is still under consideration.

The recurring nuisance at Leighterton, brought about by surface washings from a farm overflowing into the road, has apparently been abated, by laying a drain from the farmyard across the road into a field where the drainage is dealt with by irrigation.

SCHOOLS.

The number of Public Elementary Schools in the District is eight, all of which are Church of England Schools. The number of children on the registers in May, 1914, was 507.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—The arrangement is either that of privy vaults (3), earth (2) or pail closets (2). At Westonbirt, long hoppers are used which are hand-flushed

daily. All such arrangements are unsatisfactory. The privies for obvious reasons are offensive, and earth or pail closets are liable to be neglected, so that no earth or an insufficiency may be used. Hand-flushed closets also necessitate constant supervision.

The urinals discharge, in the various cases, to the sewer (Didmarton), cesspool, privy vault, field, dry well, or to an uncertain outfall. In the majority of cases they are insufficiently flushed.

Lavatory accommodation is in many cases unsatisfactory, there being often an insufficient number of basins, and these are not always fixed ; also water is not laid on to the school premises in the case of any of the schools.

Cloakrooms in the majority of schools are too small, pegs are placed too closely together, and often vertically one over the other.

LIGHTING.—The lighting of the schools is, on the whole, fairly good, except in the case of one school where it is insufficient (Shipton Moyne). Lamps are used when daylight fails.

VENTILATION is good in all the schools ; that by windows is supplemented by openings in the walls and ceilings, and Tobin's tubes ; warming is by stoves and open fires.

DESKS.—The majority are long, a few only are dual. They are arranged so that the light falls from the back or left or right.

CLEANING.—Schools are scrubbed, in some cases, every month, in others every six weeks or three times yearly, *i.e.*, during the holidays. Otherwise, they are cleaned by dry sweeping daily. It would be an advantage if wet sawdust were used, since by dry sweeping the dust is scattered, to settle on desks and other ledges, whilst a portion only is collected in the dustpan.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

The Sanitary Inspector is also Highway Surveyor and Water Engineer. He acts for both Urban and Rural Districts. It is a disadvantage that he has no means of conveyance for visiting the various parts of his scattered districts, which extend over 29,686 acres ; it can easily be understood that the sanitary administration must suffer in consequence.

During the past year an assistant has been appointed for the work of both Urban and Rural Districts ; his duties, however, are chiefly clerical.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

A not inconsiderable number of the dairies have drain inlets and defective flooring, which requires to be properly cemented. In some cases, articles are stored in dairies which are not only liable to collect dust but also to contaminate the milk. The water supply of some of the dairy farms is not good, either for drinking purposes or for watering cattle, and it is liable, in some cases, to be short in dry weather. Yards and cowsheds are very commonly badly laid and drained, and manure is allowed to accumulate. In many cases also the ventilation of the cowsheds is not good. In many dairy farms cows are given no water when being kept in the sheds at night. In the great majority of cases the milk is only kept for a very short time at the farms, but after cooling is sent off by rail, so that structural defects in dairies are not of so much importance as they otherwise would be.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 12 workshops in the Gloucestershire portion of the Tetbury Rural District and one factory ; there is also one workshop in Wiltshire. Only one nuisance was reported, which was abated.

FOOD.

Four cattle affected with Tuberculosis were found at Long Newnton, and were destroyed; one animal at Leighterton, which was suspected of being tubercular, was kept under observation.

BAKEHOUSES AND SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There is one slaughter-house in Tetbury Upton and two bakehouses in Avening, as well as one of the latter in Didmarton Parish. They are usually satisfactorily conducted and, for the most part, kept in a cleanly condition. The knackers' yard is under the same management as the slaughter-house, but is situated a quarter of a mile away.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

One case of Scarlet Fever was notified from Chavenage, and three cases occurred in one house at Long Newnton, on the premises of a registered milkseller. The patients were satisfactorily isolated at home, and there was no spread of the disease.

Five notifications of Tuberculosis were received; three on Form A and two on Form B. Two of these patients were suffering from Tuberculosis which was other than Pulmonary.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Mumps was prevalent at Avening and Ashley during the year, and Chicken-pox at Westonbirt, necessitating the closure of the school in each parish.

Further remarks on the control of Tuberculosis and Acute Infectious Diseases are made on pages 5 and 7.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

A visit was paid to the district in the early part of the year by Dr. Carnwath, the Local Government Board Inspector, for the purpose of investigating the housing

conditions. As a result of his visit the Board drew special attention to the seriously defective houses in the parishes of Cherington, Avening, Newington Bagpath, Didmarton and Long Newnton, and urged the Council to take into consideration the question of building houses, viz. : 10 to 15 in Avening, 6 in Cherington, 6 in Didmarton, 6 to 8 in Bagpath, 4 or 5 in Long Newnton and 2 or 3 in Boxwell, Kingscote and Shipton Moyne. In addition, the Board recommended that inspections of houses should be expedited, as well as the measures necessary to remedy the defects. It was also suggested that maps of the district should be provided, on which the houses inspected should be indicated.

The recommendations were considered by the Council, who were, however, unwilling to undertake the building of houses, but decided to serve closing orders on the owners of 5 houses in Avening and 4 in Bagpath. At a previous meeting of the Council representations had been made with a view to closing orders with respect to 15 houses in Avening, 7 in Cherington, 9 in Bagpath and 3 at Long Newnton.

Certain points about the housing conditions in the various parishes might be mentioned. Details of the various defects found have been described more fully in the Annual Report for 1913.

AVENING.—Demand for houses in this parish is influenced by the fact that a certain number of people reside in Avening and work in Nailsworth, there are, however, occupied houses which are bad and which would require practically rebuilding to make them satisfactory.

LONG NEWNTON.—There are some very old houses in this parish that no repairs would make really satisfactory, Owing to lack of houses a certain number of people who work in this parish reside in Tetbury.

DIDMARTON.—There are some houses in this parish that are very indifferent.

BAGPATH.—There is not much demand for houses in this parish, but some that are occupied are very bad.

WESTONBIRT.—Houses are good, but a considerable number of persons work at Westonbirt and have to live a considerable distance away owing to lack of houses, viz., at Tetbury, Shipton Moyne, Leighterton or Didmarton, thus affecting the demand for houses in these parishes also.

TETBURY UPTON.—A few people who work in this parish reside in Tetbury.

CHERINGTON.—Houses are bad and there are no vacant houses.

Eighty-five houses were inspected during the year and 34 were re-inspected. New Inspections were made in Didmarton 6, Avening 20, Tetbury Upton 2, Leighterton 10, Cherington 23 and Bagpath 24. Re-inspections in Cherington 8, Bagpath 4, Tetbury Upton 2 and Avening 20.

The usual procedure after inspecting houses has been to serve informal notices on the owners to remedy the defects. The method is slow and not by any means sure, as it entails repeated visits by the Inspector, to see if the work has been carried out; if closing orders were made more frequently it is probable that the work of repairing defective houses would be proceeded with more rapidly. It is stated, however, that there is a great dearth of labour suitable for the purpose of repairing houses.

The following is a summary of work done during the year, as supplied by Mr. Davison, the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, relating to the Gloucestershire portion of the district :—

HOUSING :

Plans for new houses approved	...	...	...	1
Houses built	...	...	...	1
Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909, Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910—				
Houses inspected	...	...	...	85
Reinspections	...	...	...	34
Houses with defects for which notices were necessary	...	...	...	85
Houses for which notices were served—				
(a) Under Sec. 15 Housing, Town Planning Act, 1909				
No. remedied	...	...	...	0
(b) Under other Sections of Public Health Acts				
No. remedied	...	...	...	35
Houses unfit for habitation	...	...	...	31
Houses made habitable	...	...	...	9
Representations made to District Council	...	...	...	31
Closing Orders	...	...	...	0
Demolition Orders	...	...	...	0
Cases of overcrowding reported and abated	..	...	...	0
Houses cleansed on notice	...	...	...	12

WATER SUPPLY :

Wells sunk or improved sources provided	...	...	0
Wells closed	...	...	0
No. of samples taken for examination	...	...	0

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE :

W.C.'s supplied with flushing cisterns	...	...	0
Earth closets, pail closets or improved privies constructed	...	...	4
Notices served to empty privy vaults	...	...	21

NUMBERS INSPECTED OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING :

	No. on register	No. inspections
Factory	1	1
Slaughter-houses	1	4
Bakehouses	3	6
Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops	23	46
Workshops	12	12
Common Lodging-Houses	0	0

GENERAL :

Complaints received	...	...	3
Reported to Council	...	...	6
Nuisances abated	...	...	38
Preliminary notices served	...	...	41
Statutory notices served	...	...	0

INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

Cases visited and reported on	...	...	2
Houses in which cases occurred	...	...	2
Houses disinfected	...	...	4

In the two parishes of Ashley and Long Newnton, which are in Wiltshire, but are included in the Tetbury Rural District, the sanitary matters which have been dealt with during the year are the following :—

Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	4
Reinspections	...	...	...	...	...	6
Houses unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	3
Representations to Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	3
Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	0
Houses made habitable	...	...	...	...	...	0
Notices served under Public Health Acts	..	...	...	...	...	4
Houses remedied under	„	„	...	...	...	1
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	6
Abated	...	...	...	...	...	5

INFANT MORTALITY AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The birth-rate for the past year is 17·1, and the death-rate 9·4. After correcting for age and sex, the latter rate becomes 8·7, which, as is usually the case for this district, is a very low rate.

No deaths occurred from Zymotic diseases, but three from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, being in this case a death-rate of ·69.

Three infants died under the age of one year, giving the low infant mortality rate of 40. Two of these deaths resulted from Debility in the first two weeks of life, and the third was presumed to have died of convulsions, the child having been found dead in bed.

MARTIN ASHLEY.

TABLE I.—BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		Transferable Deaths of Non-Residents registered in the district	Transferable Deaths of Residents not registered in the district	NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Uncorrected Number	Nett		Number.	Rate.			Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909 ...	4260	62		14.5	32	7.5	1	5	6	96	36	8.4
1910 ...	4273	77		18.0	38	8.8	0	2	4	51	38	8.1
1911 ...	4286	76		17.7	31	7.4	1	2	7	92	32	7.7
1912 ...	4299	66	66	15.1	30	6.9	1	8	3	45	37	8.6
1913 ...	4312	92	92	21.3	36	8.3	1	7	2	21	42	9.7
1914 ...	4325	71	74	17.1	37	8.5	3	7	3	40	41	9.4

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) ... 29,571
Total population at all ages (Census 1911) ... 4,286
Total families or sepearte occupiers ... 986

TABLE II.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases and Ages.										Cases and Localities								Removed to Hospital
DISEASES		All ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	Long Newnton	Chavenage	Westonbirt	Leighterton	Rodmanton	Avening	Others		
Scarlet Fever ...	...	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever ..	..	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	..	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	
Totals ..	..	10	0	1	6	0	2	1	0	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	0

Isolation Hospital—None.

TABLE III.—MORTALITY AT ALL AGES.

DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.												Deaths in Institutions		
CAUSES OF DEATH.				All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65		65 and upwards	
All causes—certified				41										
,, uncertified				0										
Influenza				.. ..	1..	0...	0...	0...	0..	1..	0..	0..	0	0
Phthisis, Pulmonary Tuberculosis					3...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	3...	0...	0	0
Cancer, malignant Disease				..	3...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	2...	1	0
Organic Heart disease				..	3..	0..	0..	0..	0...	0...	0..	2...	1	1
Bronchitis				.. ..	3...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	1...	2	0
Pneumonia (all forms)				..	1...	0...	0..	0...	0..	0..	1...	0..	0	0
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs				.. ..	1...	0...	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0...	1	0
Cirrhosis of Liver				..	1..	0..	0...	0..	0...	0...	0...	1...	0	0
Nephritis and Bright's Disease				..	2...	0..	1...	0..	0..	0..	1...	0..	0	0
Congenital Debility & Malformation, including Premature Birth				..	2..	2..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0	0
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide					1..	0..	0..	0..	0...	0..	0..	0..	1	0
Suicide				.. ..	1...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	1...	0	0
Other Defined Diseases				..	16...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	1...	0...	15	0
Diseases ill-defined or unknown				..	3...	1...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	2	0
Total				.. ..	41...	3...	1...	0...	0...	1..	6...	7..	23	1

WHEATENHURST RURAL DISTRICT.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

A general description of the district was given in the Annual Report for 1913, so that it is unnecessary to elaborate this further.

To recapitulate shortly the area comprises 24,462 acres, with 13 civil parishes ; the population at the census of 1911 was 6,093, the annual rate of decrease during the preceding ten years having been .2 per cent. The chief industry is agriculture, although there are some watermen and boatbuilders who reside near the Severn. A few of the residents, both women and men, who reside chiefly at Eastington, work at cloth mills and a brush factory, both of which are outside the district. A few residents in Hardwicke also have daily employment in Gloucester.

The only factories in the Wheatenhurst Area are leather-board and malt factories at Eastington, also flour mills at Framilode. The district is thinly populated, with only four persons to the acre.

POOR LAW RELIEF.—The number of persons relieved (indoor) on January 1st, 1914 and 1915, respectively, in the Wheatenhurst Union were 55 and 51. The numbers relieved (outdoor) on the same dates were 87 and 80. The proportion of paupers to the census population on the above dates was 1 in 43 and 1 in 46.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY.

On the eastern side of the district there is abundance of water available from springs on the Cotswold Hills, and many houses which are served by pipes have a satisfactory

supply ; others are badly off, owing to the springs not being protected from pollution, and owing to the long distances that some of these springs are situated from houses.

On the western side, the chief supply is from wells, varying from 7 to 20 feet in depth ; in other cases from rain water tanks, pond holes, or the streams of the district ; all of these latter supplies are liable to pollution from various sources, as has been explained in previous annual reports. In many cases also there is considerable deficiency in dry weather.

The Stroud Water Company supplies 279 houses by pipes in Eastington, and five in Frocester. In some of the higher parts of Eastington and Frocester the water from this source is insufficient, and no water is available for several hours each day.

Twenty-nine houses in Standish are supplied in pipes from a reservoir on Lord Sherborne's estate.

Twenty houses in Brookthorpe have a piped supply from a reservoir which derives its water from a spring on the hills. During the year the water supply of Harescombe came under observation. In this parish there are some 12 cottages which are dependent for their water supply on a small stream which flows through a field in such a manner that it is unprotected from pollution by cattle. This stream is between 200 and 300 yards distant from some of the houses. It appears that this question of the water supply of this parish has been under consideration on previous occasions, but that, although there is water available which might be laid on by pipes to any of these houses, the fact that a mill has certain rights, at a point lower down on the stream, presents legal difficulties to the partial diversion of the water.

Owing to a notification of typhoid fever from one of a group of about 12 houses at Fromebridge, the water supply was investigated, and it was found that this was obtained from a well a short distance from the river Frome, but separated by an apparently ineffectual gravel filter. There is very little doubt that polluted water from the river Frome had easy access to the well.

In the case of this group of houses, one closet served four houses and one washhouse ten houses. One of the houses was built over a stable, and in all probability effluvium from the stable ventilated into the kitchen. The owner of these houses is now under notice to provide a better water supply by sinking a well at a place where the water is less liable to pollution.

In the last Annual Report it was mentioned that owing to a complaint which had been received as to the water supply of the parish of Moreton Valance the question of extending the Standish Park mains was referred to the Parish Council for their consideration with a view to their forming a special water area. No further action, however, has been taken with regard to this matter, nor am I aware of any future action that is contemplated.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The only sewer in this district is at Alkerton in the Parish of Eastington, although surface water drains in various parts of the district have been converted into anomalous sewers by long usage as such. The sewer at Alkerton is a covered channel which receives the sewage from a number of houses in Eastington, as well as a considerable amount of surface water. The exact number of houses connected has not been ascertained. The sewage is conveyed to a tank on a dairy farm with overflow to a watercourse where is the only water available for the

cattle on the farm. The tank is pumped out once yearly and the contents carted over the land. The occupier is paid £3 yearly by the Rural District Council in consideration of the obligations involved.

The question of providing a better means of disposal of the sewage was raised at a meeting of the Council, towards the latter part of the year, and it was decided to provide means of satisfactory filtration and irrigation as soon as the land was less under the influence of the rainfall.

Certain open watercourses in the Parishes of Frampton and Fretherne-with-Saul, which receive the slop drains from a number of houses, are cleared out at intervals by the respective Parishes involved and not by the Rural District Council. These polluted watercourses are often very offensive.

Highway drains which have become a nuisance owing to being connected with slop water drains, have been dealt with during the year in various parts of the district. One of these came under notice at Brookthorpe, owing to a series of cases of septic tonsillitis, involving four members of one family, one of whom died from septic pneumonia. Conditions in connection with this house were very offensive, and prompt measures were taken to obviate the nuisance by cleaning out the drain and ensuring that slop refuse be disposed of by burying in the soil in future.

At Newtown an offensive highway drain was similarly dealt with, and a nuisance arising from a series of houses on the Frocester Road is in process of being remedied.

The chief type of closet in the district is the privy vault. There are few waterclosets, and these drain either to cesspools or, in some cases, to recognised or unrecognised sewers.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

Since writing the Report for 1913, the Wheatenhurst Rural District has sustained a loss by the death of Mr Daniells, who has filled the offices of Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for many years, during which time he enjoyed every confidence of the Council. Since his death and for some considerable time previously the work has been carried on by Mr. Mugliston, who has been formally appointed by the District Council. This Officer has been rapidly acquiring a knowledge of the sanitary circumstances of the District and has brought to bear on his duties an energy that has been instrumental in producing good results during the past year. He will no doubt have little difficulty in obtaining his Sanitary Inspector's Certificate in the near future.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

On two occasions during the year when it would have been an advantage to send a series of cases to Stroud Hospital, it was found impracticable to do so, owing to there being no beds available.

An arrangement by which the Wheatenhurst Rural District had a certain number of beds in the Hospital always available when required would be preferable to the present arrangement, by which each case is charged £3 3s. weekly.

SMALL-POX ACCOMMODATION.—There is a wooden building roofed with tiles in the grounds of the Workhouse at Eastington, which was originally erected for isolation of Small-pox. This is a single-storied building with two rooms about 13 ft. by 13 ft. by 13 ft., for the accommodation of patients, and in addition a kitchen and scullery. The building is situated about 25 yards from one end of the Workhouse.

The Guardians have a steam disinfecter of recent model which is used for their own purposes.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS THAT CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Regulations were adopted as to Dairies, &c., in 1908, but no bye-laws have been adopted in any connection, or adoptive Acts. It will be convenient, however, to consider, at this point, the subjects usually considered under this section, such as slaughter-houses, &c.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—Some alterations have been effected in the slaughter-houses. The one mentioned in the last report has been much improved, in fact, has been vacated and adjoining premises utilised so that it is now much more satisfactory.

Two others have also been improved, one by connecting the drainage with the sewer at Alkerton, and another where it was found that two drain inlets were inside the building and laundry work was carried on has been improved, by altering the drainage and arranging that the laundrywork be carried on elsewhere.

Two other slaughter-houses are unsatisfactory, one owing to drain inlets being inside the building and structural defects, and another also to structural defects, as a consequence of which it is necessary for the slaughter-house to be utilised as the shop.

In one other case there is a tendency to carelessness in allowing accumulation of offal which necessitates frequent supervision.

DAIRIES, &c.—Considerable improvement has been effected in this connection, chiefly by alterations to the yards; which, in some cases, were badly drained and the surfaces such that cleanliness has been impossible.

In two cases yards have been concreted and new 6 in. socket pipes laid to cesspools, fitted with chain pumps ; concrete floors have been laid in the milking sheds and gutters, new mangers and iron water troughs provided ; also water has been laid on, and ventilation and lighting made satisfactory.

In one other case the yard has been paved with bricks, and in others stoned and covered with ashes.

There is still insufficient ventilation in some of the cowsheds and one of these is now being dealt with, but the dairies themselves, in the great majority of cases, are satisfactory, although there is a tendency to use them as stores for unsuitable articles.

Two dairies, however, were found to have no separate washhouses, and in one of these food was cooked. In both these cases the milk was sent away by train, after having been stored a short time ; but the arrangement is none the less very undesirable and conducive to carelessness.

BAKEHOUSES are for the most part kept in a satisfactory state and compare favourably on the whole with such premises in other Rural districts. None of them, however, can be described as modern bakeries, although for the most part they are kept in a cleanly state. In some cases it has been necessary to advise the removal of undesirable articles from premises where baking is carried on and greater cleanliness where dust is liable to accumulate, such as under the dough troughs, &c.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—There are 32 workshops on the Register (including 8 bakehouses) and 3 factories ; 40 inspections have been made, but it is stated that no defects have been found. It is probable that the Register is not kept up to date, but steps will be taken to remedy this in the near future.

No lists of out-workers have been received.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—The flesh-boiling business at Harescombe has caused no complaints, and in fact there appears to be scarcely any business at all carried on there.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

By far the largest incidence of infectious disease fell on the neighbourhood of Frampton. Of five cases of Diphtheria notified four occurred in this Parish and 27 out of the total of Scarlet Fever. Of the Frampton Scarlet Fever cases the first seven persons were related, so that the origin was no doubt closely connected. In connection with this group of cases it would have been an advantage to send the earliest notified to Stroud Isolation Hospital, but at the time of notification there were no vacant beds. The rest of the cases notified occurred at intervals throughout the year, and were largely connected with the children who attended the Public Elementary School. On a subsequent occasion also it was found that there was no vacancy in the Stroud Isolation Hospital, when it would have been an advantage to send cases there.

On visiting the house of one patient it was found that a sister was suffering from nasal discharge, probably caused by unrecognised Scarlet Fever.

Two bakehouses were affected, in one of which two Scarlet Fever cases occurred, and in the other, two of Scarlet Fever and two of Diphtheria; although it is stated that the latter disease was not confirmed by bacteriological examination.

Another child who was isolated at home and whose father was a baker living away from the business was nursed in a house separate from that which the father occupied, during the period of isolation.

In the case of the two bakehouses previously mentioned, one of the occupiers elected to close his business rather than send the patients to the hospital, and the other became infected himself, so that of necessity his business temporarily ceased.

The School was visited on several occasions and suspicious absentees visited in addition to an examination being made of all the school children for "missed" cases.

On two occasions the school was disinfected by spraying with formalin and thoroughly cleansed.

The Scarlet Fever Cases, other than those that occurred at Frampton, were almost without exception traced to an origin outside the district, either from Gloucester or Stroud, and there was no difficulty in confining the infection to the original house in each instance.

As regards the Diphtheria cases the first was notified on May 31st, and the person affected was a youth who had recently come in a vessel from Cardiff; he was apparently ill when he came, and died very shortly afterwards. The house and infected articles were disinfected and the Medical Officer of Health of the Port where the vessel then was, was notified.

On June 8th, two cases were notified from the bakehouse already mentioned, which exhibited all the clinical signs of Diphtheria, although the bacteriological report was negative. There was no apparent connection between these latter cases and the one first notified.

The fourth case connected with Frampton was not notified until December 26th, and this child died. No contact with any other known case could be ascertained in this instance.

The fifth case was a school teacher in the Stroud Rural District, and apparently became infected at school.

The single notification of Typhoid Fever was from a house at Fromebridge. The person was removed to Gloucester Infirmary by ambulance which was hired from the Isolation Hospital at Gloucester by the District Council.

The water supply at Fromebridge is very unsatisfactory, and the well which is utilised is not sufficiently protected from the river Frome. It was subsequently stated that the Widal reaction in this case was negative.

A series of cases of sore throat occurred at Brookthorpe, chiefly in connection with one house. These were apparently not Diphtheritic in origin, but were probably connected with very insanitary conditions, caused by slop water having been allowed to accumulate in the highway drains. The persons responsible were required to disconnect and dispose of their refuse on their own premises.

Whooping Cough was prevalent at both Fretherne and Saul Schools, as well as at Standish, necessitating closure in each case. At Standish there were many cases of Mumps also.

The cases of Infectious Diseases notified by the teachers of schools to the Medical Officer of Health during the year were as follows .—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	15	Mumps	...	...	...	41
Diphtheria	...	...	1	Ringworm	...	...	...	5
Measels	...	...	1	Impetigo	...	..	...	10
Whooping Cough	...	...	56	Verminous	...	..	...	4
Chicken Pox	...	...	12					

In view of the prevalence of infectious disease in Frampton-on-Severn, a short description of the Parish is appended.

The area of the Parish is 2,361 acres, and the population at the census of 1911 was 730, whilst the total number of houses is 220. The whole area, which is flat,

and situated at an elevation of 32 feet above sea level, lies on the lias clay, above which its soil is interspersed with beds of gravel. The river Severn, and the Gloucester and Berkeley Canal extend through the Parish, from north to south. The water supply is from shallow wells and the prevailing type of closet is the privy vault.

An old stone drain extends through a considerable portion of the village, which receives not only surface water but also slop drains from various houses. The outfall is into a tidal stream, at one end of the village, which is a tributary of the Severn. Other slop drains discharge either into an open highway channel at another end of the village, or to dry wells. Considerable nuisance arises from time to time, owing to this method of disposal of slop water. The houses are, for the most part, very old, chiefly built of brick, often half timbered and roofed with slate or stone tiles, although some are thatched. The gardens are good, with plenty of open space in front and rear, and there is very little overcrowding of buildings.

Although some of the houses are very indifferent, owing to structural inconveniences incidental to their great age, the majority have been much improved during the last year or two, and there has been little difficulty in getting repairs or alterations executed when the necessity for such has been indicated to the owners.

The population is chiefly agricultural, with the usual small business houses found in such communities. There are also a few sailors and fishermen that live in the Parish.

Further remarks on the control over acute infectious diseases are made on page 7.

Six notifications of Tuberculosis were received, all of which were pulmonary, and all on Form A.

Two of these persons were mother and son who lived in a damp house, to remedy which notices have been served. Previous to notification two adults and three children had been in the habit of sleeping in one bedroom.

One person was in the habit of using a shelter regularly, which had been privately provided.

Further remarks on Tuberculosis which apply to this district are made on page 5.

The following is a summary of routine work done during the year as supplied by Mr. Mugliston, the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.—

HOUSING :

Plans for new houses approved	...	...	...	3
Houses built	...	...	...	3
Water certificates granted	...	...	...	3

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909 :

Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	73
Areas inspected—Parts of every Parish.					
Houses with defects for which notices were necessary	...	...	...	...	37
Houses for which notices were served—					
(a) Under Section 15	...	...	...	...	1
No. remedied	...	...	...	...	1
(b) Under other Sections Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	36
No. remedied	...	...	...	...	32
Houses unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	6
No. made habitable without closing	...	...	...	...	2
Representations made to District Council	...	...	...	...	6
Closing orders	...	...	...	...	3
Houses made habitable after service of orders	...	...	...	...	2
Demolition orders	...	...	...	...	0
Houses cleansed on notice	...	...	...	...	18
Cases of overcrowding reported	...	...	...	...	2
Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	2
Character of defects	...	...	...	...	vide infra.

WATER SUPPLY :

Wells sunk or improved sources obtained	...	...	0
Wells closed	...	...	0
New connections with public supply	...	...	2
		(1 Standish)	
		(1 Stroud W.Co.)	

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE :

W.C.'s newly supplied with flushing cisterns	...	3
Earth closets, pail closets or improved privies constructed...	... ..	3
Notices served to empty privy vaults	... ..	29
Privy vaults abolished...	... ..	none.

NUMBERS INSPECTED OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING :

	No. on Register	No. inspections
Common Lodging-Houses	0	0
Slaughter-houses	9	9
Bakehouses	8	16
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	38	38
Workshops	24	24
Factories	3	3

GENERAL :

Complaints received	...	4
Nuisances abated	...	75
Swine	...	1
Preliminary notices served	...	75
Statutory notices served	...	1
Convictions	...	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

Cases visited and reported on	...	55 (including Tuberculosis)
Houses in which cases occurred	...	43
Houses disinfected	...	30
Method of disinfection—Formalin spray.		

In connection with the above summary, houses were inspected in every parish and 37 out of the total of 73 required notices. Of those defective, four were in Arlingham, five in Eastington, five in Frampton-on-Severn, five in Fretherne-with-Saul, six in Hardwicke, two in Harescombe, two in Longney and eight in Whitminster. The chief defects were untrapped and insanitary drains, lack of ventilation through windows not being made to open, roofs in bad repair, unceiled rooms, defective floors, defective spouting, &c.

These houses were dealt with by informal notices, and for the most part little difficulty has been experienced in inducing owners to do the work.

Six houses were unfit for habitation, one of which was dealt with under Section 15 ; the Local Authority doing the work and the cost was recovered. This house, with another also unfit for habitation, is situated in Eastington, the latter however, since service of the closing order, has been allowed to fall to ruin.

Two houses in Harescombe were made habitable after service of closing order, all the rooms being ceiled, windows made to open, floors repaired, new earth-closets provided and rooms lime-washed throughout. One house at Arlingham that was unfit for habitation has been repaired throughout with new roof, new drains, new floors, rooms ceiled, windows made to open.

One house at Brookthorpe also unfit, was occupied by an aged person, who is now dead and the house will be dealt with at an early date.

Of the four houses mentioned in the Annual Report for 1913, as being unfit for habitation, one has been allowed to go to ruin and three have been satisfactorily repaired, the former being at Frampton, and the three latter at Harescombe.

HOUSING.

In the early part of the year a visit was paid to the district by Dr. Carnwath, a Medical Inspector of the Local Government Board, for the purpose of an investigation into the housing conditions. All the various parishes were visited, but no special recommendations were made, as a consequence, for the consideration of the Council.

A general description of the housing of Wheatenhurst was given in the Annual Report for 1913, and a short description of Frampton has been given under the heading of "Infectious Diseases." A few supplementary details, however, may be added.

The number of vacant houses suitable for persons of the working-classes in good condition and with a rental of under £16 yearly are as follows :—Eastington 20, Harescombe and Brookthorpe 12, Saul 20, Arlingham 5, Frampton 4, and Longney 4.

Very few houses in this district are self-contained. The majority share washhouses as well as closet accommodation with their neighbours; water supply also in the majority of cases is shared between houses. There is not much over-crowding and not many people take in lodgers. The majority of people pay rent, that is to say, there are comparatively few “tied” houses. There is no real scarcity of houses in any parish, and although many of the houses are very old, and consequently structurally inconvenient, their appearance outside gives the impression that they are worse than they really are. As in the case of all old houses paving is defective both inside and outside, in very many cases. This defect is remedied as far as possible in those houses that come under inspection.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The 105 births recorded for the district give a birth-rate of 17·2. This rate is practically as low as any for at least the last five years.

The total number of deaths registered in the district was 84; three of these were of non-residents, whilst two residents died outside the district. The net number of deaths therefore for the year was 83, which gives a rate of 13·6 per 1000 of the population, and when corrected for age and sex, 10·9. This is a low death-rate, although higher than that for 1913.

Eleven infants died under the age of one year, and the mortality rate per 1000 births is 104. This is more than double that for 1913, which, however, was exceptionally low.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

One death occurred from Diphtheria, there were five notifications of this disease.

Three deaths occurred from Tubercular Diseases, which is a low proportion to the total number and gives a rate of $\cdot 32$ for Phthisis and $\cdot 16$ for other Tubercular Diseases.

The Zymotic rate is low, being only $\cdot 16$.

Nineteen deaths occurred from Respiratory Diseases (chiefly Bronchitis). This is a high proportion, and gives a death-rate of $3\cdot 11$ from these diseases.

Forty-eight persons out of a total of 83 were over 65 years of age when death occurred.

Of the 11 deaths under one year of age, five occurred before the age of two weeks.

An illegitimate child died at six months of age from Marasmus.

MARTIN ASHLEY.

TABLE I.—BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

YEAR.	Population Estimated to Middle of Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		Transferable Deaths of Non-Residents registered in the District.	Transferable Deaths of Residents not registered in the District.	NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Uncorrected Number	Nett.		Number.	Rate.			Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1000 Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909 ...	6095	121	121	19·8	79	12·9	0	11	10	82	90	14 77
1910 ...	6094	120	120	19·6	92	15·0	0	7	4	33	99	16·22
1911 ...	6093	123	123	20·1	69	11·3	2	6	9	73	73	11·99
1912 ...	6092	104	104	17·0	76	12·8	0	7	8	76	83	13·60
1913 ...	6091	122	122	20·0	72	11·8	2	5	6	49	75	12·33
1914 ...	6090	105	105	17·2	84	13·7	3	2	11	104	83	13·66

Area of District in acres (land and inland water)	...	24,462
Total population at all ages (Census 1911)	...	6,093
Number of families or separate occupiers	...	1,518
Average number of persons per house	...	4·03

TABLE II.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases and Ages.									Cases and Localities.						Total removed to Hospital
DISEASES.	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	Eastington	Frampton	Frocester	Whitminster	Brookthorpe	Others	
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup...	5	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	0
Erysipelas ..	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Scarlet Fever	35	0	7	19	6	2	1	0	2	27	1	2	1	2	0
Enteric Fever	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	1	0
Totals ...	50	0	7	22	9	8	3	1	6	34	1	3	1	5	1

Isolation Hospital—None,

TABLE III.—MORTALITY OF ALL AGES.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.									Deaths in Institutions
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	
All causes—certified	83									
„ „ uncertified	0									
Diphtheria and Croup	1..	0..	0..	0..	0..	1..	0..	0..	0..	0..
Influenza	2..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	1..	0..	1..	0..
Phthisis, Pulmonary										
Tuberculosis ..	2..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	2..	0..	0..
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	1..	0..	0..	0..	0..	1..	0..	0..	0..	0..
Cancer										
Malignant Disease	3..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	3..	0..
Rheumatic Fever ..	1..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	1..	0..
Organic Heart Disease	14..	0..	0..	0..	0..	1..	1..	1..	11	5..
Bronchitis ..	11..	2..	1..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	8..	0..
Pneumonia, all forms	7..	2..	2..	2..	0..	0..	0..	1..	0..	0..
Other Diseases of										
Respiratory Organs	1..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	1..	0..
Diarrhœa and										
Enteritis ..	2..	1..	1..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..
Appendicitis and										
Cirrhosis of Liver ..	1..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	1..	0..	0..	0..
Nephritis and										
Bright's Disease	4..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0	1..	3..	1..
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including										
Premature Birth ..	4..	4..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0	0..
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	2..	0..	0..	2..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0	0..
Other defined Diseases	23..	2..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0..	3..	18	1..
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ..	4..	0..	0..	0..	0..	0	1..	1..	2..	0..
Total	83..	11	4..	4..	0..	3..	4..	9..	48	7..

TABLE IV.—INFANT MORTALITY.

	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	4 weeks and under 2 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 1 year	Total deaths under 1 year
All causes—Certified	11									
„ „ Uncertified	0									
Bronchitis	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Pneumonia, all forms	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2
Enteritis	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Premature birth ...	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Antrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Other causes ...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Total	3	2	0	0	5	3	0	3	0	11

Births in the year—legitimate 102 ; illegitimate 3.
Deaths in the year—legitimate 10 ; illegitimate 1.

